location survey including model and earthquatke studies, design of bridges on rail and road approaches, design of main bridge, preparation of Bill of quantities, cost-estimates and land acquisition details. The Detailed Project Report containing the above details has been received and is at present under scrutiny in consulation with Railway.

(b) No target date of complete has yet been fixed.

(c) The final railway alignment will connect Chalkhowa Railway Stations (5.83 km on DibrugarhTinsukhia BG line) to a new station between Sisibargaon and Siripani railway station on Rangia-Murkong Selek section. Road alignment will connect NH-37 on Sourth Bank near Dibrugarh and NH-31 on North Bank near Lakhimpur. No approach Road has been constructed so far.

Issue of Tatkal Sewa Identity Cards

2186. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken, or is proposed to be taken, against the officials of her Ministry responsible for distribution of 60,000 unverifed Tatkal Sewa identity cards by a Railway contractor, as reported in the Hindustan Times of November 11, 2000;

(b) whether Government propose to cancel/withdraw these cards in the interest of security;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken to ensure that such breach of security does not recur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The matter is under investigation.

(b) to (d) Tatkal Identity Cards were issued with the sole purpose of facilitating passengers to avail themselves of "Tatkal' reservation facility and they cannot be considered as a proof of identity for any other purpose. Mention of this fact has also been made on these identity cards. A specific public notification to the effect that these Identity Cards should not be relied upon as a document for any other transaction with Government or private agencies, has also been made in newspapers. As such, Tatkal Identity Cards do not pose any security threat to nation.

Moreover, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of External Affairs have also been advised that these Identity Cards cannot be considered as proof of Indian citizenship or for any other purpose.

The ground situation has since changed and voter Indentity Card is available to a large number of people. The Tatkal Scheme has also become very popular and people are now aware of the requirements of this Scheme. In view of this, and to avoid any possibility of these cards being mistaken as proof of identity, issue of these cards was discontinued.

Economic Viability of Rail Electrification

2187. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, inspite of spending 400-500 crores of rupees every year on electrification of Railways, there is any economic viability of this investment.

(b) if so, the specific figures thereof;

(c) whether any independent verification of the claimed economic advantages has ever been carried out; and

(d) if so, what are specific figures, section-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Electrification of only such projects that are financially viable are taken up.

On an average, Rs. 318 crores per year has been spent on electrification during the last 5 years.

(b) Normally only such electrification projects (except a few on operational considerations) that give a financial return of minimum 14%, are taken up.

(c) No, Sir. No independent verification has been carried out.

(d) Does not arise.

Modernisation of Railway Stations in Assam

2188. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to modernise some railway stations in Assam during the Ninth Five Year Plan;